

# Whig & Chronicle.

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 27, 1875.

## FIELD AND FARM.

### The More Grass the More Profit.

How shall the original fertility of the soil be restored? Is the great problem which is our duty to solve. It can be solved by introducing a proper system of rotations of crops, and by growing more grass and less grain. Our salvation consists in practical recognition of the old Belgian proverb: "No grass, no cattle; no cattle, no manure; no manure, no crops." A district of country which is exclusively or mainly a natural grass growing section has within itself all the elements of successful agriculture, provided its operations are conducted with system and economy. A country having a soil naturally adapted to grass is, in a great measure, able to live within itself, and not be dependent upon an exchange of commodities with other districts. Upon a soil like this the farmer has at hand the means to secure whatever he desires; and, to apply the proverb already quoted, he has corn, cattle and manure. In fact, grass and stock husbandry is almost the only branch of farming which seems to render them more independent.

The preservation of the fertility of our soils, and the profitable increased production of the cereals, can best be secured by grass extensively. The question has been asked, why is it that France, which has three acres to one under cultivation, when compared to England, produces an aggregate no more than the latter? It is accounted for in this way: Every acre of English grain receives the manure from acres of grass, while in France the manure from each acre of grass must be diffused over two and a half acres of grain. Such a system as is adopted in England is in accordance with nature's and it is one which must eventually be adopted by intelligent American farmers. Such a system constitutes good tillage, and there is no more limit to the capability of the prairie lands that stretch away in almost endless perspective, than there is to the atoms which exist in the atmosphere, in the ocean, and in the solid earth. It does require, however, both study and application to change a pound of air into a pound of wheat, corn, cotton, meat or wool, to the best advantage. —*Coleman's World.*

### The Coffee Trade.

There has been much anxiety concerning the supply of coffee for the current year. The following communication, from a respectable source, sets forth the view of the writer, and will be of interest to a very wide circle of readers.

This important branch of our import trade occupies just now an unusually interesting position, owing to the short crop this year in the principal producing countries. The crop of Java, which last year was 1,250,000 piculs of 136 lbs each, is this year between 500 and 550,000 piculs. The crop of Rio de Janeiro last year was 4,250,000 bags of 132 lbs each, and together with 250,000 bags left in Brazil of the previous crop, give a supply of four and a half million bags, making, with about 800,000 bags of the previous crop left over, a supply of 2,300,000 bags. The islands near Java have also produced a smaller crop, so that the falling off is in all 2,775,000 bags, or about 50 per cent. The supply of tea is rarely short, it being a leaf, whereas coffee is a fruit, and the trees, like our apple trees here, seem to require years of rest; fortunately this seldom happens, so now, in all the different coffee-producing countries at the same time, The East India crop begins to come to market in Java in May, and is mainly controlled by the Dutch Government, which takes it of the planters at a low price and sells it chiefly at Amsterdam by monthly auctions; this year, owing to short supply, these auctions are to cease in November. The Brazil crop makes its appearance in market in July; and in seasons of short crops, like the present, the great bulk of it comes rapidly to market, so that the supply for the first four months is as large as during the same period of average crops. The natural effect of anticipated scarcity has already been felt in this and the European markets, both of which have advanced in price some ten per cent. the last 60 days. Fortunately the dull state of general trade has prevented any great speculation in the article, and the supply in sight was probably never so widely distributed at this season of the year as it is now.

### The Productive Power of the Soil Increased By Cultivation.

It is difficult to ascertain the amount of crops, or the average yield, of very distant times past, but the average yield per acre of wheat in the eleventh century was estimated by the highest authority of that day, the author of "Fleta," at only six bushels. In 1200 years later, in 1800, it was 10 bushels at Harvested yield only 300 bushels, and on an average of three years, little more than that. The actual productive power of Great Britain in the article of wheat alone increased during the half century from 1801 to 1851 to the extent of supporting an additional population of 7,000,000, an increase which can be ascribed with confidence mainly to improved cultivation. So in every country where agriculture receives the attention it deserves the productive power of the soil has largely increased. Even the Atlantic States of the Union, where the system of cultivating the soil without maintaining its fertility by a proper treatment prevailed for many years, are not an exception, since the condition of agriculture is rapidly improving in the oldest of them, where the system was earliest begun, and the general average of crops, with the exception of the potato, is increasing from year to year as a more proper culture is introduced and persevered in, the farmer being led to improve his practice by the pressure of an increasing population and constantly rising prices. In New England, for instance, the general average yield of Indian corn per acre has risen to about 35 bushels, while crops of 50 and 60 bushels per acre are not uncommon, and 80 and 100 are sometimes obtained by careful tillage. —*Agriculture.*

### Epizootic Remedy.

When the epizootic prevailed so extensively three years ago, we have on experience in the benefit of palliative treatment, and none in any other. As soon as the first horse in the neighborhood was attacked, our working team, which was busy plowing, was fed a peck each of scalded bran, with a double handful of scalded meal with it, every day at night, as hot as they would eat it. Although they were attacked, the disease was so mild that, except one day, they never ceased work, and recovered in a few days, no other treatment being given. The bran mash was kept on until all coughing had ceased. —*Country Gentleman.*

## Hawkins County Items.

WAR GAP, HAWKINS COUNTY,  
October 19, 1875.

To the Editors of the Chronicle:

The farmers are generally busy sowing wheat. The last crop of wheat being very small and very near all damaged in the shock, the farmers are sowing more than is usually sown in Clinch Valley.

The cholera has killed a large percent of the hogs in the mountain valley. At several houses it has taken them so clean they will scarcely have enough left to make the pot greasy.

In the year 1873, we had five free schools, four white and one colored, in this 3d District. We agreed to pay the white teacher \$30 per month and the colored teacher \$12. We have not had any free schools since, and I was told a short time since we are still due these teachers about \$100. If we can not have free schools more than five months in four or five years I say we will do better to have no free school money at all.

We have had several severe frosts, and on Saturday the 16th, we had rain, hail and snow.

### Saving Seed Corn.

The experience of the past has taught farmers a lesson they do not always heed, the importance of saving the seed corn early in the fall, and protecting it from influences which destroy its germinating qualities. How few there are sufficiently particular in this respect; often they risk a crop of corn upon the neglect of the outlay of a single day's labor in saving the seed. Poor seed may germinate and grow under favorable circumstances, but for steady and vigorous growth in all conditions, from the time it is planted, the seed must be of the best quality.

It is a dangerous experiment, in a season like the present one, to leave seed corn to dry upon the stalk after the blades have been bitten by the frosts. It can, in this case, neither grow nor ripen, but must dry out. If the drying process is not steady and rapid the germinating qualities become impaired and can not be relied upon for seed. The finest, largest and best ripened ears should be selected, tied into pairs by two husks left for the purpose, and hung in the sun long enough to become dry, unless exposed to a sufficient degree of artificial heat. This latter plan would be a good one; an abundance of smoke would form a coating for the kernels and make them less susceptible to climatic influences. Farmers will pursue this plan they will be a thousand times better paid for the time occupied than in almost any other work upon the farm. When well seasoned it may be put in a dry place, with the full assurance of an important beginning, the next spring, for a crop of corn. It is very difficult to put this valuable article out of the way of the vermin, which find no trouble to walk beneath a horizontal surface, if they have the angles of two sides to cling to. To prevent this, a frame, consisting of poles, may be suspended from the rafters by strong wires or rods of iron.

Considerable time may be gained by husking the corn and spreading it upon a suspended platform. If properly dried, it may be piled several ears in depth without fear of injury from dampness. It is not best to measure the importance of this matter by the length of time required to perform this work, but upon the difference between the probabilities of a full, or half crop, as the result of the action taken. Promptness and thoroughness on the farm are the only qualities which pay the large profits. —*Western Rural.*

### Keep the Stock in Condition.

Farmers should take advantage of the late fall months after the swarms of flies have ceased to inflict their stings, to get all the animals not in a good thrifty condition into such a state before the severe weather of winter sets in. Animals put in fair flesh before cold weather comes will go through the winter much better, and with less expense to the owner, than stock starting through in a poor condition.

Provide extra food, if necessary, so that an abundant supply can be fed regularly, while it will do the most good. In this way a store of carbon is provided for winter use, and may, with good care and comfortable quarters be maintained in fair condition without much trouble. Stock in this way may be put upon grass next spring worth twice as much as if neglected during the change from green to dry food, which must soon take place. Unless great care is taken stock will suffer more and depreciate more rapidly in value during the early winter and spring months than at any other time. Precautions should be exercised to avoid the great losses which occur at these times. The change should be made by degrees. When the grass becomes scarce and killed by the frosts the dry food should first be supplied in small quantities, and the amount increased as the case may require. Keep the stock growing, otherwise the results will not be satisfactory. The neglect in this explains one cause of so much poor stock being sent to our markets. —*Western Rural.*

### Twelve Rules for Successful Farming.

1. Drain and irrigate.
2. Plow deep and loose the soil.
3. Provide room for solid manure, and systems for the liquid manure.
4. Choose commercial fertilizers intelligently, and do not use one in excess of another, simply because others have used it.
5. Manure every crop which benefits by it; and manure the soil.
6. Use only safe, paying crops, and select the best seed for these.
7. Cultivate every crop upon your fields, and in the proper rotation.
8. Cultivate more and better fodder.
9. Feed plentifully, and of the best fodder.
10. Breed stock, and let no more accident control the increase.
11. Support breeding and feeding proper care.
12. Keep accounts.

### Cure for Hog Quinsy.

The following is said to be one of the best remedies for the cure of the quinsy in hogs: For each hog take one quart of grated horseradish, put it in one gallon of sweet milk and boil until the mass thickens. Place the hog on his back, and as soon as sufficiently cool pour the liquid down the throat. Then take a sharp knife and scarify the throat on the outside, and anoint it thoroughly with a mixture of equal parts of cast oil and spirits of turpentine. Never known to fail if applied in the early stages of the disease.

### Cold Slaw.

Half a head of cabbage cut very fine, a stalk of celery cut fine—or teaspoon of celery seed—or a tablespoon of celery essence, four hard-boiled eggs—whites chopped very fine—a teaspoon of mustard, a tablespoon of butter and two yolks of the boiled eggs, salt and pepper, mix well; take an egg well beaten and stir in a cup of boiling vinegar; pour over and cover for a few minutes.

Sheep on a farm yield both wool and mutton. They multiply with great rapidity. They are the best of farm scavengers, "cleaning a field" as no other class of animals will. They give back to the farm more in proportion to what they take from it than any other animal, and distribute it better with a view to the future fertility of the soil.

## HOLSTON CONFERENCE.

M. E. Church, South.—First Day's Proceedings.

Some Interesting Reports from Presiding Elders and Preachers.

The services were opened by Bishop McTeer by singing one of the Songs of Zion, by prayer and by reading the 4th chapter of the 2d Epistle to the Corinthians.

Another hymn—"How Firm a Foundation"—was sung, and Rev. Mr. Dickey led the Conference in another earnest appeal to a rich Throne of Grace for Divine Guidance in the work before the body.

The Secretary of the last Conference was called for, and coming forward, he called the roll of the members of the Conference, and the majority of the names were answered to.

The Districts were then called for and the Presiding Elders from each District gave the names of lay-members elected as members of this Conference, and the following is a list:

From Wytheville district: Rev. Frank Alexander, D. C. Miller, A. Umbarger and C. J. Noel.  
Jeffersonville district: J. P. Kelly, H. S. Bowen, P. J. Lockhart and A. Mahood.

Abingdon district: R. W. Jones, J. L. Buchanan, W. B. Aston and M. H. Butler.

Jonesboro district: Rev. W. B. Gale, F. W. Earnest, H. M. Folsom and A. W. Lotzsch.

Morrisville district: Rev. T. P. Sommers, H. C. T. Richmond, P. C. Thompson and Dr. R. W. Jones.

Knoxville district: J. W. Gaut, J. M. Carter, W. W. Lawrence and R. S. Moody.

Athens district: J. K. Brown, D. A. Browder, J. W. Duncan and Rev. U. Payne.

Chattanooga district: M. D. Thompson, J. P. McMillan, J. C. Wood and A. C. S. Igoe.

Pikeville district: T. C. Norwood, W. B. Mitchell, E. C. Montgomery and W. H. Haskins.

Asheville district: R. B. Vance, Rev. C. M. Greer, J. K. Irby and James Webb.

Franklin district: W. W. Stringfield, J. R. Gray, Rev. C. D. Smith and J. W. Tinley.

The roll of the lay delegates was then read, and quite a number of them answered to their names.

On motion, Rev. Frank Richardson was elected Secretary, and he called upon Messrs. J. R. Payne, W. C. Carden and Mr. Felix Earnest to assist him in the labors of the office.

On motion the Presiding Elders were constituted a Committee to nominate Standing Committees. The Committee retired to make their report.

On motion the line of the second windows from the pulpit is to be considered the bar within which the members of the Conference are to take seats.

On motion the representatives of the press were invited to take seats within the bar, which invitation was gladly accepted by us.

The Secretary read the report, or rather exhibit of the affairs of the Southern Methodist Publishing House at Nashville, showing the concern to be in a flourishing condition. He also read an appeal from the House to the members of the Conference to take an interest in the House and secure as much patronage for the same as possible.

These papers were referred to the Committee on Books and Periodicals. A paper from the Missionary Secretary was then read, urging the members of the Conference to push the missionary work of the Church; and the paper sets forth that Holston Conference has been assessed \$2,000 to carry on this work.

The papers were referred to the Conference Board of Missions. The Bishop then raised the question as to whether all the committees were in full working order.

All the committees reported themselves full, and ready for work.

On motion lay members of the Joint Board of Finance were elected, as they had not been appointed at the last Conference.

Rev. Mr. Long, of the Committee on nominating Standing Committees, reported the following:

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Worship—C. Long, W. G. E. Cunningham, J. L. M. French, W. H. Bates, W. C. Carden.

Education—J. S. Burnett, D. C. Miller, J. S. Kennedy, R. H. Parker, W. W. Bates.

Sunday Schools—R. W. Jones, G. D. French, L. L. Carlock.

Books and Periodicals—R. W. S. Bishop, S. K. Hayes, J. L. Buchanan, P. S. Sutton, S. Phillips.

Memoirs—W. Hicks, J. Boring, A. J. Frazier.

Temperance—W. H. Price, J. W. Duncan, H. M. Folsom.

Church Property—E. E. Wiley, A. Umbarger, P. J. Lockhart, F. W. Earnest, W. H. Cooper, J. W. Gaut, W. W. Pyott, E. H. Parrott, R. J. Only, J. A. Ragan, D. H. Atkins.

The Bible Cause—G. W. Callahan, T. T. Salyer, K. C. Atkins.

On motion the hours of meeting and adjourning were fixed to meet at 8 A. M. and adjourning at 12 M.

A motion, that the Bishop appoint a Committee on Introduction was carried.

Dr. Cunningham read appointments for services for the evening.

The Bishop announced the transfer of Rev. E. E. Hoss to the Holston Conference.

It was moved and carried that the Conference sit with open doors. The characters of the Presiding Elders were called up, and they gave accounts of their work during the past year.

G. W. Miles, Presiding Elder of the Wytheville District, was called and his character passed. He reports ten churches in the District, all in a flourishing condition, and he thinks the reports will show it so. There have been between 1,000 and 1,100 conversions in the district. Have been building churches, and there has been about \$14,000 worth of church property added during the year. Had two successful camp meetings.

(Continued on Third Page.)

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